(b) Commerce Minister had invited the Director-General, World Trade Organisation (WTO) to visit India while on his tour of Asian countries, so that he could also be acquainted with the developments here.

(c) and (d) The DG. WTO had meetings with the Commerce Minister and the Finance Minister and paid a courtesy call on the Prime Monster. The discussions covered subjects like the negotiations on financial services and movement of natural persons, the social clause regional trading blocs, trade and the environment and intellectual property rights. The DG, WTO was apprised of India's position on these issues. He appreciated India's concerns on these issues and recognised the need to increase awareness in developed countries about the importance of open markets and market access to developing countries. Government is of the view that the objective of the visit was achieved.

India-South Africa Joint Trade Commission

1954. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALARAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India/South Africa Joint Trade Commission has been finalised to help the bilateral trade grow at a faster rate:

(b) if so, the details thereof with terms and conditions and areas for joint trade:

(c) whether with finalisation for setting up of the trade commission, the desired results are to be achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Trade Agreement between India and South Africa signed on 22nd August, 1994, at Johannesburg *inter-alia* provides for the establishment of a Joint inter-governmental Committee to review the working and facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement. Against the trade turnover between India and South Africa for the year 1993-94 of Rs. 181 crores, the trade turnover between the two countries during 1994-95 reached the level Rs. 995 crores thereby showing a quantum jump, as a sequel to the signing of the Trade Agreement between the two countries.

International Labour Organisation and Jute Sector

1955. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed by International Labour Organisation (ILO) for jute sector;

(b) whether Government have taken decision to implement ILO norms for jute sector; and

(c) if so. since when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA. SANGMA): (a) Although the International Labour Organisation has not adopted any international labour standards specifically for the jute sector, it has adopted, in 1958, Convention No. 110 and Recommendation No. 110 and in 1982 a Protocol concerning Plantations which inter-alia cover fibres such as jute. These standards regulate the employment of plantation workers and cover issues such as wages, right to organise, collective bargaining labour inspection, housing, medical care etc.

(b) India has not ratified ILO Convention No. 110 concerning plantations.

(c) Does not arise.

Production and Export of Rubber

1956. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding production an export of natural rubber from the country during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 and till date, country-wise;

(b) whether Government have set any targets for boosting rubber exports during the period 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Production of Natural Rubber during 1993-94,1994-95 and 1995-% is as under:

Year	Production
1993-94	435,160 tonnes
1994-95	471,815 tonnes
1995-%	*101,500

*Estimated (upto June)

Export of natural rubber (Country wise)is as under:

Export of Natural Rubber

Country	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (Upto June)	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Rs.)
Nepal	126.467	33,00,000	664.909	2,61,84,974	135	78,57,800
Singapore	40.32	9.00,000	134.400	47,64,916		
Kenya			136.20	67,09,188		
Netherland	19.20	5,00,000	448.32	1,67,88,945	36	18,43,731
Germany			57.60	25,63,701		
Itlay			38.40	13,20.844		
Russia			40.00	18,79,979		
Korea			9.60	4,56,960		
France			115.20	54,45,294		
S. Africa			38.40	19,60,435		
Sri Lanka			38.40	17,94,330		
Tansania	185.987	47,00,000	57.60	34,30,225	171	97,01,531
Total:			1961.029	8,07,40,736		

(b) Govt. has not fixed any target for export of natural rubber since the projected domestic demand for 1995-96 is higher than estimated production.

(c) Does not arise.

Methodology in Assessing employment and Poverty

1957. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the methodology adopted by the Planning Commission in assessing employment and poverty alleviation; and

(b) to what extent the employment levels have actually gone up during the years 1991-92 to 1994-95 (year-wise) and what is the assessment of alleviation of poverty during the said period (Year-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) Assessment of employment is made on the basis of the results of the comprehensive sample surveys of employment conducted by the National Sample Surveys Organisation generally at quinquennial intervals. The last such survey for which results are available relates to 1987-88. In the absence of results from the next such large scale survey conducted in 1993-94, estimates of employment have been made for the period subsequent to 1987-88 on the basis of estimates of GDP growth and employment elasticities in different sectors. Such estimates of employment growth made for the years 1991-92 to 1994-95 are given below:

Year	Net addition to employment (Million)
1991-92	3.0
1992-93	6.58
1993-94	5.02
1994-95	7.18